

We Claim:

1. (Original) A pot for growing a plant or plants, the pot comprising:  
a side wall having an upper edge forming a mouth;  
a bottom wall continuous with the side wall, the bottom wall and side wall  
together defining a chamber for containing a growth medium; and  
liquid transfer means for transferring liquid between the growth medium and a  
local environment external to the pot and adjacent the base wall;  
wherein the liquid transfer means transfers liquid to and/or from an internal zone  
in the chamber, the internal zone spaced from the bottom wall, and the pot is adapted to resist  
root escape.
2. (Original) The pot of claim 1 wherein the liquid transfer means comprises  
one or more liquid transfer conduits.
3. (Original) The pot of claim 2 wherein each liquid transfer conduit extends  
upwardly from a base aperture in the bottom wall to an internal aperture positioned in the  
internal zone, the conduit open at each end.
4. (Original) The pot of claim 3 wherein each liquid transfer conduit is formed  
with a water impervious side wall.
5. (Original) The pot of claim 4 wherein the liquid transfer conduit is cylindrical  
with a diameter in the range of 5mm to 50mm.
6. (Original) The pot of claim 4 wherein each conduit extends inwardly in the  
range of 2mm to 80mm.
7. (Original) The pot of claim 4 further including retention means for retaining  
liquid transferring material in the liquid transfer conduit.
8. (Original) The pot of claim 7 wherein the liquid transferring material is one  
or more of a growth medium, coir dust, bark, polyester, and soil.
9. (Original) The pot of claim 8 wherein the conduit is dimensioned to receive  
the liquid transferring material under the influence of gravity.
10. and 11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The pot of claim 7 wherein the retention means is a mesh positioned in the base aperture.

13. through 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method of managing water content in a pot for growing one or more plants, the method comprising the step of:

providing a transfer arrangement for transferring liquid directly to and/or from an internal zone of a growth medium inside the pot, the internal zone spaced from a bottom wall of the pot, and a local environment adjacent the bottom wall, the transferred liquid passing through a bottom wall and an inwardly extending conduit adapted to resist root escape.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 further including the step of positioning material comprising growth medium in ~~[[an]]~~ the inwardly extending conduit, the conduit having a first opening through the bottom wall and a second opening inside the internal zone, the material in the conduit acting as a liquid transfer material between the internal zone and local environment.

36. through 38. (Canceled)

39. (New) The pot of claim 4 further comprising an internal cap adapted to cover the internal aperture, sufficiently loosely to allow liquid to pass between the cap and an edge of the aperture.

40. (New) The pot of claim 3 wherein the bottom wall is substantially planar on its bottom surface.

41 (New) The pot of claim 1 further comprising a biocidal agent added to the liquid transfer means.

42. (New) The pot of claim 4 wherein each liquid transfer conduit is formed as an inwardly extending slot.

43. (New) The pot of claim 42 wherein each slot includes one or more of:

(a) a side with a width in the range of 1mm to 5mm and a length in the range of 5mm to 60mm;

(b) a cap over an internal opening of the slot, the cap extending downwardly of at least one free edge of the internal aperture to form a tortuous pathway of liquid flow; and

(c) a material wick positioned in each slot.

44. (New) The pot of claim 1 wherein the liquid transfer means comprises one or more liquid permeable plugs each inserted through a corresponding base aperture and closely abutting a wall of the aperture.

45. (New) The pot of claim 44 wherein each liquid permeable plug includes one or more of the features wherein it:

(a) is formed from one or more of concrete, mortar, clay, rubber, polymeric material, wood and polyester;

(b) is cylindrical;

(c) includes a butt section which flares outwardly;

(d) is waisted to provide a seat for an edge of the base aperture;

(e) forms a gap between the liquid permeable plug and the base aperture of 200 microns or less, preferably in the range of 50 to 100 microns; and

(f) forms a gap in the range of 50 to 100 microns.

46. (New) A pot adapted to resist root escape and, in case, to provide a transfer arrangement for transferring liquid directly to and/or from an internal zone of a growth medium inside the pot, the pot comprising:

a side wall having an upper edge forming a mouth;

a bottom wall continuous with the side wall, the bottom wall and side wall together defining a chamber for containing a growth medium;

at least one conduit extending upwardly from a base aperture in the bottom wall to an internal aperture, the side of the conduit having a water-impervious wall; and

a mesh positioned in the base aperture.